

# The Quaker City Philatelist

VOL. II.

MAY, 1887.

No. 5.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

## POSTAL HISTORY.

The first recorded postal system was established by Cyrus, 599 B. C.

He built post-houses and employed messengers. Having calculated how far a horse could travel in a day, he had stables built in proportion, in all of his one hundred and twenty provinces, with grooms to attend to the horses.

He also appointed postmasters to receive the packets from the couriers and furnish fresh couriers and horses. Thus the post went night and day with extraordinary speed.

The first actual letter post-system connecting countries together by communications, was established to facilitate trade and commerce throughout the commercial world, in 1169, in the districts of the "Hanse towns."

The towns of the Hanseatic league were originally a confederacy united in an alliance for the mutual support and encouragement of their commerce.

Thomas Randolph was the first chief postmaster in England, in 1558.

The students of a Paris university established a postal institution in the eleventh century. A number of pedestrian messengers were employed who carried letters from the students to the various countries of Europe from which they came, and through them the money they needed for the prosecution of their studies.

Over the plain and over the level,  
Carry this letter like the devil;  
Let it not stop for flood or fire,  
Until it reaches Bill Crawl, Esquire.

SUBSCRIPTION for THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST for the present year is 25 cents; abroad 35 cents.

## OFFICIAL DECREES.

### SPAIN.

*Department of Posts and Telegraphs—  
Postal Sec. Bureau 5, Circular No. 19.*

Requests have been made to this Department to annul the decree of the 9th of November, 1873, which forbids the use of postal cards not printed at the national printing office, and to permit the use of cards printed by private persons.

This Department has resolved, in conjunction with that of Finance, that after receipt of this order the post-offices shall forward to their destination in the Peninsula and Spanish offices in Morocco, cards not printed by the Government, provided that they conform to the following conditions:

1st. Shall not be larger than 10 centimeters in length, and 9 in width.

2d. They shall have in the upper right-hand corner, a stamp of equal value to the official cards for the same destination.

3d. They shall only carry on the face the name and address of the sendee.

4th. The circulation is subject to the rules of restriction of 10th March, 1871, the same as with official cards.

You are ordered to acknowledge receipt of the order and send copies to the post-office of your jurisdiction and publish it in the official journal of your Department to acquaint the public.

ANGEL MANSI,  
Director General.

MADRID, Dec. 31, 1886.

### GUATEMALA.

*Notice.*—The public are hereby notified that the supply of postage stamps of 1 centavo is exhausted. The Post-office

Department has decided to use for this value the necessary quantity of stamps of 2 centavos which are herewith in circulation from this time until the reception of new 1 centavos that have been ordered in New York.

EMILIO DE LEON,  
Director General.

GUATEMALA, 12 Nov., 1886.

#### REUNION ISLAND.

For the Governor of the Island of Reunion.

By virtue of Article 9th of Decree of 3d of May, 1884.

On the request of the Director of the Interior,

*We have decreed and decree :*

Article I. The Post-office Department is authorized to put in circulation the amount of eighty thousand postage stamps, surcharged with the following values, of which the amount in hand is insufficient :

54,000 stamps of 0 fr.	5 centimes.
26,000 " " "	20 " "

80,000

Article II. The surcharge shall be made on stamps of 0 fr. 30 centimes, of which the supply exceeds the wants of the colony.

Article III. The figure representing the new value shall be surcharged in black on the lower part of the stamp.

In all the surcharges the letter R. (Reunion) placed above the new value, shall indicate the place of emission.

Article IV. The Director of the Interior is charged with the execution of this decree, which shall be published and inserted in the Official Bulletin.

CUIVIER.

ST. DENIS, 20 May, 1886.

For the Governor,

B. JACOB DE CORDEMOY,  
Director of the Interior.

#### URUGUAY.

*Notice.*—By order of the Post-office Department there shall be put in circulation the 1st of December next a new series of stamps of five centavos printed in violet ink of the same type as those emitted on the 19th December, 1884. Ninety

days are allowed after the date first mentioned to withdraw the stamps of same value now in use, with the right to exchange these for the new ones during time indicated, all post-offices being authorized to do so. After the time mentioned has expired the stamps withdrawn shall have no postal value.

CHIEF CLERK.

MONTEVIDEO, 27 Nov., 1886.

#### PORTUGAL.

*Stamps of Five Reis.*—The stamps of five reis shall be withdrawn and replaced by a new type.

The new stamps shall be on sale in the kingdom and in the islands of Azores and Medeira, the first of January of next year (1887), from which date the sale of the stamps now in circulation shall cease in all the post and telegraph offices of Lisbon and Oporto as well as elsewhere in the kingdom, and mentioned colonies. The stamps now sold up to the 31st December shall be good until the 31st of January, 1887.

After the 1st of February, 1887, they shall be of no postal value.

All stamps of this value of all issues that shall remain in the post-offices after this date shall be sent to the Treasury Bureau.

The post-offices of Lisbon and Oporto shall exchange said stamp so presented for the new ones.

#### JOTTINGS.

BY F. E. P. L.

We have received many letters in regard to the decision of the Quaker City Philatelic Society concerning Mr. Patrick Chalmers' claims as to his father being the inventor of the adhesive postage stamp. Now that decision was only arrived at after the society had thoroughly weighed the testimony for and against Mr. Chalmers, and the society expected to be criticised very severely for being the first body of the kind in the United States that had the courage to stand against the tide so strongly set in the other direction. Owing either to the printer

of this paper, or a mistaken idea of the subject of debate on the part of the secretary of the society, a wrong idea was printed. The society did not appoint a committee to look into claims of Mr. Chalmers as the inventor, but into his claims that his father did. Again the Q. C. P. S. did not report adversely to his claims on the postage system, but as to the adhesive stamp it did. I must ask the indulgence of our readers until next month when I will present an article embodying the result of my search as to the real originator of adhesive stamps.

In a conversation with our Recording Secretary, I got at the reason of the mistake as regards the invention of the penny postage system. Mr. P. Chalmers in his book says or intimates that the idea was first thought of by Mr. Wallace, M. P. for Greenock, whereas the idea was thought of at least as far back as 1643-44 by Mr. de Valager, and used in Paris.

A word more and I have finished. In one letter the writer says: "The Q. C. P. S. was wrong in the first place, and the committee made it worse, and I do not see how they can get out of it now unless they expunge that part of proceedings from the minutes." That is exactly what the society is not going to do. They feel that they were right, and barring the mistakes which I have corrected above, as it will remain until the society is convinced that they were wrong, which they are not now.

It was our good fortune yesterday to be taken through the extensive establishment of MacCalla & Co, printers and publishers. The members of this firm are our Business Manager, Mr. W. A. MacCalla; our co-editor, Mr. H. McAllister, and Mr. Pickell.

The latter was for many years the foreman of the composing room of the firm of MacCalla & Stavely, and as can be seen at a glance from these facts, thoroughly versed in all the requirements of the first-class work which the former firm was noted for.

Mr. MacCalla has for over twelve years been associated with the former firm, and is thoroughly equipped for his work. They occupy two entire

floors in the immense brick building on Dock street, and have fifteen large steam power presses, and employ from fifty to sixty hands.

They will take up the printing of the QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST where the old firm left off, and we can expect the steady improvement in typography, general appearance and literary matter which has been so marked in the past.

We also have great pleasure in adding that notwithstanding the much greater drain upon their time, we shall continue to have the services of Messrs. MacCalla and McAllister on the Q. C. P., who have done so much to place the paper on the elevated plane where it now is.

It is very painful to notice the epidemic, and think it must be called that, which has infected so many of our best papers, namely, branching off from the subject for which they were started, Philately, into coins, curiosities in shells, etc. I was almost going to say buttons, but they have not gotten so far yet, although they have gotten down to pieces of paper and tin that we see on tobacco plugs, and in ninety-nine cases out of the hundred the deterioration is marked immediately. A paper cannot devote itself with equal justice to half a dozen things at once, any more than a collector can attend to three or four kinds of collections and not neglect some to the aggrandizement of the other, and it has been Philately that has been neglected every time so far.

We would respectfully notify our many readers that we do not hold ourselves responsible, as far as belief in them goes, for the different opinions on various subjects that will find space in our columns. It was never thought necessary by the editors that this announcement should have to be made, but judging from the storms that have beaten on our devoted heads it was. If we believed in every opinion expressed, we would have a nice time.

*The Philatelic Fortnightly* for April 5th and 19th, duly to hand, and though small is good. We think attention might be well directed to its pertinent remarks about Chalmers in No. 2.

—THE—

# Quaker City Philatelist

*Published Monthly,*

IN THE INTEREST OF PHILATELISTS.

*Entered at Philadelphia P. O. as Second-Class Matter.*

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*A cross opposite this notice signifies your subscription has expired. Please renew.*

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Literary Editor—F. E. P. LYNDE, P. O. Box 106.

**Business Manager,**

**W. A. MAC CALLA,**  
**BOX 33, Philadelphia, Pa.**

**Circulation 1500 Copies.**

Advertisements for No. 6 should be in by May 27th.  
Subscriptions must begin with current number.

MEMBERS OF THE American Philatelic Association have the option of aiding in the selection of the journal which is to represent them, and in making such selection, consideration should be given to the offer made by the proprietors of this journal as giving a handsome paper which has been exceptionally prompt each month. It offers eight pages free, and agrees to pay the Association \$25 per annum for the privilege. As each member of the Association will receive one copy per month free, the great advantage will readily be seen, as the present publication costs about \$300 per annum, and if this offer is accepted, the amount now paid, and an additional \$25 will be available for other purposes.

With this amount much could be done, and some of the present expenses

in the purchasing, counterfeit detecting and exchange departments could be reduced.

The QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST has been successfully conducted, and now has a large cash balance in its treasury, in addition to its good book accounts, and should it be chosen, members are assured of a most creditable and carefully proof-read publication of from 20 to 30 pages each month.

OUR contemporaries seem to be flourishing as a rule, and we see no reason why this should not be the case in every instance, as a little push well directed cannot fail to insure satisfactory results. The difficulty is to find some one who is willing to give a little hard work, and if we are to judge by the number of failures, it must be admitted that philatelists are lazy.

SOME OF OUR readers have no doubt received a circular from a Brooklyn journal which wishes to be chosen as the official organ of The American Philatelic Association, and claims that it is the only publication which has a sufficient capital to carry it to a successful issue, and after stating that its circulation is 8000 copies (?) per month (? ? ?) it adds that with the addition of the 203 members, its circulation would be unequaled in the history of philatelic journalism. It carefully avoids all reference to the disgraceful advertisements which from time to time appear in it, and fails to remember that it has made innumerable changes in its appearance and size.

It is not by any means notable except for its extravagant statements about itself, and is anything but a representative philatelic publication.

We doubt its great financial strength. We doubt its 8000 (?) circulation, and we advise our readers to vote for the QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST, which is the only publication that has offered to pay for the privilege, and would state that it (THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIC

PUBLISHING COMPANY, Limited) is a legally organized company, with a paid-up capital of \$300, and has as large a subscription list as any Eastern philatelic publication.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES are of incalculable benefit, and deserve the aid of all, as the continued interest which they secure, keeps many in the ranks who would otherwise give up the study for the want of some companionship to admire and criticise.

The question in this matter which is most frequently discussed is the age requirement. Mr. Bradt, of the Chicago society, advises the admission of all, but there is no question that some limit should be placed, as the collector of many years' experience and study would not find the association of young boys congenial, nor would the younger feel so free in the company of older persons, or understand their motives and manners of collecting, and for this reason we would advise a reasonable limit in which the eligibility would depend on the applicant's knowledge and earnestness.

A society organized in this way would be an almost ideal creation, and could not fail to spur the flagging interest of some, and rouse the energies of others.

The benefit to other philatelists would be great, and the society itself would be assured of a long life.

Join or organize a society in your own city, and do what you can to help us all.

THE Q. C. P. S. has taken a firm stand against James Chalmers' pretensions (should be P. Chalmers). This is just what societies should do until better evidence is offered than the unassisted memory of persons now in their dotage. Mr. Chalmers may or may not have experimented in 1833, so far as his (son's) evidence goes to show.

But even allowing he did, the invention (?) had nothing very great about it, for adhesive fiscals had been used many years. Why should honor be paid to a man who, even if the idea was his, sat down and allowed another man to carry out his plan? — *Philatelic Fortnightly*, April 19, 1887.

## Our Contemporaries.

[We would like to receive two copies of all stamp publications per month, and we will be happy to send same.]

It is really a pleasure to welcome to our sanctum such a bright philatelic, newsy paper as the *Western Philatelist*. Probably some of our contemporaries will yell "chestnuts," as we have praised this paper before, but it deserves it "all the samee."

The March number of *The P. J. of A.* received, and as usual chock full of good matter, and we are also pleased to see has not gotten the fever of admitting all sorts of matter of doubtful interest to philatelists, which appears to be so prevalent now.

A new aspirant for favor hails from Canada, or more properly Halifax, N. S. The initial is very good. Keep it up, Brother Findlay.

*The Stamp* to hand with its usual complement of good material. Keep up improving, my friends, there is always room further up.

Two papers which always keep on the even tenor of their way are the two philatelics, *The World* and *The Monthly*. They never get any larger, but have the same amount of really valuable news each month, which makes us turn with a sigh of relief from the stuff-like experience, etc.

We have received a catalogue of the second auction sale of Messrs. R. R. Bogaert & Co. Although we go to press too late to be able to boom up this one, here goes for the next. Collectors sending their bids to the aforesaid firm will always find prompt and careful personal attention.

We would be thankful if our contemporaries would send us two copies regularly to our P. O. Box, namely, to QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST, Box 106, Philadelphia. Also, they cannot expect to continue to receive copies of our paper if they do not send theirs regularly. The office of the Q. C. P. is neither at 1221 Arch St. nor is its box 111 any more, nor has it been so since January 1st, 1887.

We have received the following papers this month. Publishers except thanks. *Stamp*, Vol. 2, No. 2; *Western Philatelist*, No. 4; *Philatelic Journal of America*, Nos. 25, 26; *Curiosity World*, Nos. 7, 8; *Useful Instructor*, Vol. 1, No. 1; *The International Philatelic Advertiser*, No. 3; *Philatelic Monthly*, Vol. 13, No. 4; *Philatelic Magazine*, No. 8; *Stamp Collectors' Figaro*, Vol. 1, No. 2; *Cumberland Collector*, No. 11; *Philatelic Gazette*, No. 33; *General Anzeiger fuer Philatelie*, Vol. 5, Nos. 2, 3; *Mohawk Standard*, Vol. 2, Nos. 1, 2; *Collectors' Review*, No. 6; *Plain Talk*, Nos. 24, 25; *Empire State Philatelist*, No. 4; *Philatelic Tribune*, No. 19; *Philatelic World*, No. 4; *Philatelic Annual, Philatelic Fortnightly*, Nos. 1, 2; *The Southern Collector, Agassiz's Companion*, No. 3; *Eclipse*, No. 11; *Texas Philatelist*, No. 4, 5; *Collectors' Bi-Monthly Directory*, No. 5; *Halifax Philatelist*, No. 4, and *American Philatelist*, No. 4.

We are in receipt of No. 4 of the *American Philatelist*. While we do not think it a model paper, we do think that no better man can be found for the place of the editor than the one at present holding that office, and we hope that he will be retained no matter what changes are made.

Stanton's Philatelic Directory to hand. It is larger than the majority of them, and a good deal better than most. Price 25c.

We are in receipt of Dr. M. Vedel's catalogue of postage stamps. It is excellent, and many cheap stamps can be found on his list that cannot elsewhere. He is especially good in foreign local stamps. Send for one to Dr. M. Vedel, Copenhagen, Denmark.

We do not pretend to be responsible for misstatements made by correspondents, as we publish their letters for the good contained in them, and leave the bad for those who want it.

We have one complete file of THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST, which has lately been received, and will be sold for 75c.

MR. PATRICK CHALMERS' letter which is published in another column should be compared with the resolution of "The Quaker City Philatelic Society" to be found in the April number, as it shows how weak Mr. Chalmers knows his claim to be.

Sir Rowland Hill is not mentioned in the resolution, and what bearing in the case Sir Rowland Hill's letters to James Chalmers have on the case is beyond our comprehension.

To Mr. Patrick Chalmers we say that he has no doubt plenty of believers in America, but from all we can find but few on the other side, and those who are nearest should be most competent to judge.

The *Western Philatelist* makes a poor showing as his champion, and will come around after an investigation, if it dares to make it.

We now say that Sir Rowland Hill is entitled to the credit of being the inventor of the successful stamp, just as Robert Fulton is entitled to the invention of the steamboat, although no one doubts that Jean Courdray ran a steamboat on the Seine in 1774, and M. Chambuset was very far ahead of Chalmers and Hill, but willingly or unwillingly was obliged to give up his right.

If Patrick Chalmers' claim was solid, he would not be obliged to throw away so many unused sets of 1887, English.

EVERY PREMIUM WINNER has received the premium won, and if you did not receive one you must understand that you did not win one. Our business manager complains that he is daily receiving letters from subscribers who want to know why they did not receive a premium. These letters invariably came from those who did not win prizes, and as it is impossible to answer each one, this answer must suffice for all. If you won a premium, you have already received it. We have repeatedly printed the statement that *all* subscriptions *must* begin with the current number, and that we cannot begin a subscription except at the date it is received. Every copy printed is circulated at once, excepting only a few files which are pre-

served by shareholders in the company for their own benefit. There is no time like the present time, and subscribers who begin with this number will have no occasion to regret it.

AN EXHIBITION OF POSTAGE STAMPS.—Collectors of postage stamps are even more numerous and enthusiastic than what Mr. W. S. Gilbert once scornfully described as “the innumerable and persistent tribe of autograph-hunters.” It is, therefore, perfectly natural that they should have an exhibition all to themselves, and it is to take place at Antwerp during the first fortnight in May. The inducements to exhibitors are considerable, for there are to be nearly forty medals distributed among them. There will be a gold medal for the collection which contains the greatest number of rare stamps, and another for the most complete collection. Eight silver medals will go to the best and second-best collections of 6000, 5000, 4000, and 3000 stamps respectively; two to the most complete collections of post-cards; and two to the best collections of envelopes bearing engraved stamps. Several medals will be awarded to publishers of albums and books upon stamp collecting. There may not be a great deal to say for the “science of Philately” from the high philosophical point of view; but, at all events, the craze is rational, innocent, and wealth producing, since it confers pecuniary value upon that which would otherwise be worthless. The exhibition promises to be very successful.—*From the St. James Gazette.*

Correspondents' Column.

[This column is open to all, and we hope you will take the opportunity to express yourself on any philatelic question. Those who want any information should send in their queries, which will be published in the following number.]

To the Editor of the Quaker City Philatelist:

SIR: In your journal for this month it is stated that my father, the late James Chalmers, did not claim the honor of having been the originator of the adhesive postage stamp. Permit me to say that such statement is a mistake, while by what right or with what object the correspondence of 1840 on the subject was abstracted from the Treasury by Sir Rowland Hill has never been explained. That correspondence is now solely in the possession of Mr. Pearson Hill, who has produced such an “extract” from same as he has thought fit, my application for the context having been of no avail. Even with this, however, I have been enabled to prove to the general satisfaction of American philatelists my father’s title to the honor he claimed, and if doubt remains in any quarter here or with you, let Mr. Pearson Hill be called upon to produce the letters written by his father to mine, of dates the 3d March, 1838, and 18th January, 1840, and that doubt will be removed.

I send copy of this letter to your contemporaries and Philatelic Societies, and asking you to be good enough to publish same, I am, yours obediently,

PATRICK CHALMERS,

Hon. Member the Chicago, Newton, Jamestown and Denver Philatelic Societies.

WIMBLEDON, April 20.

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## THE PENNY POST.

The first attempt to establish the penny post in the United States was in the years 1839-40. It was simply a speculation, and resulted at first in almost total failure, but revived again under more enterprising parties. Previous to this, however, contrary to the laws of Congress—particularly the law of 1825, section 19, which enacts that no stage or other vehicle which regularly performs trips on a post road or on a road parallel to it, and no packet, war, or other vessel which regularly plies on a water declared a post-road, shall convey letters—certain persons, actually availing themselves of these modes of conveyance, constituted themselves “private posts,” traveling as passengers, and carried packages containing valuable letters, documents, and other available matter; these were, of course, transported as baggage or freight. The conveyances used by these men passed regularly over post-roads, and thus they traveled in company with their powerful opponent, “the post-office department.” It was also well known to the department; but as they *were not special posts*, the law of 1825 did not reach them. Still their system was a secret one, and hard to be detected. The law, however, of 1827, section 3, enacts that no person other than the postmaster-general or his authorized agents shall set up any foot or horse posts for the conveyance of letters and packets upon any post-road which is or may be established as such by law.

This law paved the way for the establishing penny posts by individuals in cities and even in rural districts. At first they were called expresses, but soon they assumed a more postal shape. The postmaster-general’s annual report of December 2, 1843, stated that “numerous private posts, under the name of expresses, had sprung within a few years into existence, extending themselves over the mail-routes between the cities and towns, and transporting letters and other mailable matter for pay to a great extent.” Suits were commenced against parties residing in New York, Massachusetts and Maryland. It appears from the post-

master-general’s report of November 25, 1844, that the government had been unable to suppress the private expresses, which were still continued “upon the leading post-routes.” In this and in the former annual report he recommended legislation by Congress for their suppression. There is yet no law of Congress to suppress these expresses. Governments, more particularly that of ours, cannot enact laws that will interfere with the commercial interests of the people. It may facilitate every movement by such laws as are legitimate; but taking out of the hands of individuals their *legitimate* business, connected with no department of the government, becomes at once not only a monopoly, but assumes the complexion of tyranny. The decision of the judges in the cases referred to settled the question until compromise stepped in and the government came down to the “penny system,” and thus satisfied the public.

In 1860 Mr. Holt, the postmaster-general, by virtue of the act of March 3, 1851, by a formal order declared all the streets, lanes, avenues, &c., within the corporate limits of the cities of Boston, New York and Philadelphia, to be post-roads, and notified all engaged in the transportation and delivery of letters for compensation in said cities, that they would expose themselves to the penalties imposed by the third section of the act of March, 1827. The private expresses in the cities named acquiesced in the legality of the step, with the exception of one in Philadelphia long and familiarly known as “Blood’s Express,” and subsequently, “Despatch.” In despite of the act of 1851, or the penalty imposed under that of 1827, Blood’s Express continued its regular delivery of letters in defiance of the department. A bill in equity was filed with a view of restraining the company from this habitual and persistent violation of the postal laws; but, upon full argument and consideration had on the questions involved, the injunction was denied.

The mere existence of a postal department of the government is not an establishment of monopoly. No government has ever organized a system of posts

without securing to itself a monopoly of the carriage of letters and mailable matter; but this was never intended to control individual enterprise in the express line. Judge Grier, who indorses the decision of this case, says, "The business of private carriers of letters and mailable packets, even on principal mail routes, is lawful unless legislatively prohibited. A private monopoly, secured by prohibitory legislation, cannot require the suppression of a rival business of competitors who do not infringe the prohibition, merely because the continuance of their business would lessen or destroy the profits of his monopoly. A like rule applies in determining the effect of a government's legislative prohibitions to secure its own postal monopoly. The monopoly cannot be extended beyond the legislative prohibitions, merely because the continuance of a specific business which has not been prohibited would reduce the postal earnings of the government, or even frustrate the purposes of its exclusive policy." Streets, lanes, alleys and avenues were not, in the opinion of the judge, "post-routes." Public streets intersecting a municipal town are as highways distinguishable specifically from the general public highways of a State beyond the town limits. The streets are, indeed, as thoroughfares, general public highways of the State; but, independently of this character of thoroughfares, the streets are specially *local highways* of the town. Internal affairs of municipal towns affecting their local interests alone are always regulated more or less by their local governments. So far as these streets over which the mail may be carried are entitled to be termed "post-roads for the passage of the mail," there is no question; but whether Congress has the right to declare the streets of a city post-roads for any purpose is questionable.

When Blood's Express was first established, its main object was to accommodate merchants, mechanics and professional men generally, by furnishing a medium of communication with their customers, clients, etc., which would anticipate the slow movements of the old postal mode of delivery. If this con-

tinued to be its legitimate object, it is very probable the commercial community would have taken a much greater interest in it than they did; but, unfortunately for this new postal system, it assumed the character of a "Parisian Bureau," for the reception and delivery of small documents, wherein "love, courtship and marriage" were all treated with an eye to *excitement* rather than as a virtuous incentive to their study and moral consequences. Young and inexperienced girls were gradually led into (initial) correspondence with "fast young men;" foolish widows and old maids to advertise for husbands, and equally silly, weak-minded elderly gentlemen to imitate their example. Added to this, many made this penny system the medium to originate practical jokes, and thus the "express" became a sort of Pandora's (*postal*) box for "all sorts of people" to try experiments with fickle fortune, either by marriage or swindling. Both in some instances succeeded.

The same was attempted when the government took charge of the "express;" but the department soon put a stop to this nonsensical practice by ignoring as legitimate matter every thing of an *initial* character. Young girls, foolish widows, old maids, and weak-minded men, who could without much publicity send and receive communications through "Blood's Express," found a post-office somewhat too dignified an institution for their *childish* intellects.

Still, this class of people—and it takes all kinds to make up a world—added to another class who make of crime a pastime and licentiousness a pleasure, adopted other modes of carrying on their "vocation," which we allude to under the head of "Indecent postal matter."—*Footprints of a Letter Carrier.*

### THE ADHESIVE POSTAGE STAMP.

Now that the pretensions of Sir Rowland Hill to having any way originated the adhesive postage stamp are wholly exploded, an attempt, not confined to THE QUAKER CITY PHILATELIST, is being made to weaken the title of James Chalmers by bringing forward a story as to

the adhesive stamp for postage purposes having been current in France some two to three hundred years ago. It would indeed be remarkable should such have been the case at a period when there was no regular postage system, and when indeed few could either read or write—and still more remarkable that such, if having any foundation, should have hitherto escaped the researches of modern philatelists, yet supposed to have been known to *James Chalmers alone* over fifty years ago. An attempt so obviously absurd will only recoil upon those who, in a spirit of envious chagrin, would now disparage the services of a public benefactor who certainly never heard of any such prior application of his invention, even should the story turn out to have any foundation in fact. P. C.

[The above has just been received from Mr. Patrick Chalmers, and as we were ready to go to press, have but time to state that we see no reason to change any statements which we have previously made.—EDITOR.]

OWING to the delay of the Secretary, we are obliged to omit the minutes of the Quaker City Philatelic Society this month.

MR. HARVEY, of the Q. C. P. S., is a large addition to the society and should be put on the amusement committee.

CHICAGO has boomed right out and now has many dealers and we hope collectors, as a result.

THIS is the era of new societies.

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